

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method used in networks, comprising a server
5 connected with a plurality of terminals that can
request the server to rent an electrical document
for a specific period of time and the server storing
the electrical document to a storage device of the
terminal, for controlling the termination date of
10 electrical documents comprising the following
steps:

users loading an application program in the
terminal to set a specific storing position for
the electrical document;
15 the server encrypting the current date, the
termination date, and plaintext of the
electrical document to a corresponding
ciphertext, transferring the ciphertext to the
terminal, storing the ciphertext in the specific
20 storing position of the storage device, and
recording information of the storing position
when the terminal requests the server to rent
the electrical document;
25 the application program matching whether the
current storing position is the same as the
recorded storing position and deciphering the
ciphertext to the original plaintext of the
electrical document for users intending to read
the electrical document;
30 the application program continually updating
and storing the current date in the storing
position during the time users read the

electrical document; and
the application program examining whether the
current date exceeds the termination date and
denying access to the electrical document if the
5 current date has exceeded the termination date.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the information of
the storing position is under encryption.

10 3. The method of claim 1 wherein when the terminal
requests the server to rent the electrical
documents for a specific period of time, the
termination date is valid if the current date has
not exceeded the termination date.

15 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the application
program informs users the electrical document is
expired when the current date has exceeded the
termination date.

20 5. The method of claim 1 wherein when total reading
hours exceeds a predetermined reading hours, the
application program denies access to the electrical
document.

25 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the application
program informs users the electrical document is
expired when the total reading hours exceeds the
predetermined reading hours.

30 7. A network for controlling a termination date of an
electrical document comprising a server connected

with a plurality of terminals, each terminal comprising an application program and a storage device and the ability to request the server to rent the electrical document; the server comprising a
5 rent control center for encrypting the current date, the termination date, and plaintext of the electrical document to a corresponding ciphertext, sending the ciphertext to the terminal, storing in a specific storing position of the storage device,
10 and recording information of the storing position; the application program comprising:

a storing position checking module for matching whether the current storing position is the same as the recorded storing position and deciphering
15 the ciphertext to the original plaintext of the electrical document for users intending to read the electrical document;

a time imprinting module for continually updating and storing the current date in the
20 storing position during the time users read the electrical document; and

a termination date examining module for examining whether the current date exceeds the termination date and denying access to the
25 electrical document if the current date exceeds the termination date.

8. The network of claim 7 wherein the information of the storing position is under encryption.
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9. The method of claim 7 wherein when the terminal requests the server to rent the electrical document

for a specific period of time, the termination date is valid if the current date has not exceeded the termination date.

5 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the application program informs users the electrical document is expired when the current date exceeds the termination date.

10 11. The method of claim 7 wherein when total reading hours exceeds a predetermined reading hours, the application program denies access to the electrical document.

15 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the application program informs users the electrical document is expired when the total reading hours exceeds the predetermined reading hours.